

Youth/Intergenerational Activity - Love Plants

One of the ways we love others is to take responsibility for the future by actions we take in the present.

The Jewish Talmud includes a beautiful story about Choni the Circle Maker. One day, Choni was walking along his path, when he saw a man planting a carob tree. Curious, Choni asked the man, “How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?” And the man responded dutifully and honestly, “70 years.”

Choni was appalled. 70 years? That’s a really long time for a tree to grow. Why would anyone plant a tree that wasn’t even going to bear fruit in their lifetime? When Choni asked the planter this question, the man simply responded, “My grandparents planted a carob tree so that I would be able to reap its fruit. Now I shall do the same for my grandchildren.”

Many of the projects supported by One Great Hour of Sharing focus on stewardship of God’s resources. When you share in the offering, you are helping to support development programs that empower communities around the world to thrive. You are helping to create opportunities that will change the lives of people around the world who you may never meet.

ACTION/IDEA: Host a tree planting ceremony at your church, local park, or other appropriate site. While there, tell the story of future generations who will benefit from the tree and what it offers. Consider marking celebrations at your church with tree planting as a part of the celebration. You might also find local or other programs that allow people to adopt or name trees, or that offer tree planting in places worldwide.

PRAYER: For this tree that we plant this day, we pray, O God, that it will be a blessing to those who will find shelter under its shade or enjoy fruit from its branches. While we may not see it come into its fullness in our generation, we have faith and hope that it will bless generations to come. Amen.

